



The Grebe

Volume 9, Issue 1

Winter 2013

Mission of The Friends of
Deer Flat:

The purpose of this group is to promote, protect, and provide resources to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

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NOTES FROM THE COOP 2011—2012 SEASON

It is so cool here. I saw some awesome birds--black capped chickadees, barn swallows, pine siskins, and the white-crowned sparrows. I think you should write in this book too.

Such a neat place. Beautiful sounds. God's creations are beautiful!

Saw a cock swallow, so beautiful. It was pleasurable.

This was a great adventure! Didn't know this was here. Didn't know all the birds but it was beautiful.

I saw a spotted towhee. Very nice! I could live here.

We are excited to be here! Students from Montessori Academy in Eagle loved spotting birds on their field trip. We saw pine siskins, yellow-headed blackbirds, blue heron, and a rock pigeon.

I saw a quail. I saw an American Robin. I saw a red-winged blackbird. I saw a bunch of little birds on the ground.

Today the sky looks threatening. Wouldn't mind if we were caught in here--home away from home. Love it. Thank you!



Drawing found in Notebook

(continued on page)

A Note from the President:

Looking back; looking forward...

As we begin a new year and celebrate our seventh anniversary as an organization I want to thank each of you for your support and for generously giving of your time and your talents. It has been an honor to serve as your president these past two years.

As I look back at all that you have accomplished I am very excited for the future. With your help, we have seen two special Refuge events double in attendance—Bio Blitz and Creepy Critter Encounters. Our anniversary celebration had more than 50 people of all ages in attendance last February.

We continued to cover transportation costs so that 4th-6th grade students could come to the Refuge to participate in an authentic science laboratory. Some schools have participated all three years and have made it an ongoing part of their program. It only happens because of volunteers who lead the various stations, and it couldn't happen without your support.



Two of our members stepped up to add inventory to our bookstore and donated their profits to our organization. Doug Cleveland has provided us with honey that his bees made from all things blooming at the Refuge where he has his hives. The bookstore has sold out more than once due to the high demand. Thank you, Doug, for sharing your endeavor with us.

Bob Sobba, published his research on the building of the embankments and the early history of the Refuge. Copies are available in the bookstore, and

he has also gone out of his way to schedule programs at local philanthropic meetings to share the history and sell additional books. All profits have been donated to the Friends. If you look at the Treasurer's Balance sheet in this newsletter you can see just how generous these Friends have been.

In October, our friends and co-members from SIBA, led by Cheryl Huizinga, organized our second annual *The Big Sit* to kick off National Wildlife Refuge Week. The number of participants doubled and we counted a half-dozen more species of birds this year. Our enthusiasm sparked an interest in the Boise group and inspired them to create an event, as well.

We wrapped up National Wildlife Refuge Week with a four-hour event that featured a silent auction and children's activities in addition to our three speakers. Thanks to the kindness of members, we had wonderful items for the raffle including a beautiful, hand-made quilt made by Lynette Wilfling and two bird feeders from Julie Steele who owns Wild Birds Unlimited. The president and two members of the Idaho Falconry Association brought three beautiful birds of prey for the attendees to see and two local food trucks were on-hand to make lunch an option and frozen treats were on sale, as well.

(continued on page 5)

Mark your calendar...

Upcoming Events

Lecture Series - Landscape Photography Tips

Tuesday, January 8, 7 p.m.

See page 13 for additional information

Scout Day

Saturday, January 12

Junior Stamp Art Days

Saturday, January 19 & 26th.

See page 7 for additional information

Scout Day

Saturday, February 2

Hibernate, Migrate or Insulate (Winter Day Camp)

Saturday, February 9

Junior Stamp Art Days

Saturday, February 16 & 23

See page 7 for additional information

Lecture Series - Snake River History & Artifacts

Tuesday, February 26, 7 p.m.

See page 13 for additional information

Junior Stamp Art Days

Saturday, March 2

See page 7 for additional information

Scout Day

Saturday, March 9

Lecture Series - Native Landscaping

Tuesday, March 12, 7 p.m.

See page 13 for additional information

Scout Day Information Sign up your wolf, bear, and webelo Cub Scouts or Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts to earn wildlife-related badges. Pre-registration is required. Call 467-9278 or e-mail deerflat@fws.gov to pre-register.

Reading at the Refuge

1st & 3rd Mondays of the month.

Time: 10 a.m. or 2 p.m.

Preschoolers (and their parents!) are invited to Reading at the Refuge. Children listen to a wildlife-related story and participate in related activities that will help them learn about the environment.

Programs are held at the refuge Visitors Center.

Upcoming Refuge Events:

For more information on all events, contact the refuge at 467-9278 or deerflat@fws.gov

My name is Zane. It is very cool here and I saw an osprey and mallard.

I am back almost a year later. I love the view from here, so peaceful...all of the sounds. It's almost necessary to come to the lake every weekend. Thanks Lord!

*Lots of black-capped chickadees, kestrels, mourning doves and Canada geese.
Saw a bunny and some quail.*

*Lots of black-capped chickadees, kestrels, mourning doves and Canada geese.
Saw a bunny and some quail.*

Dear people, I have killed 3 flies and 10 spiders in the last 5 minutes and have found a wasp nest.

I swept. I wanted to see a bald eagle...too bad. This place is cool.

Zoe didn't see anything. We didn't see anything either but this is a pretty cool place. The improvements are super-de-duper.

I saw a grizzly bear, 16 bald eagles, a rhino, a great white shark in Lake Lowell and Chewbacca. We gave him some jerky ☺

I saw stuffed birds and dead birds.

Lost in the wild and am getting hungry. By the time you read this I am probably dead.

Cheers! I like the fence outside. I love you.

Brewer's Blackbird



LIST OF BIRDS NOTED IN BOOK AT THE COOP, 2011-12 SEASON

Black-billed Magpie	Mallard	Brewers Blackbird
Canada Geese	California Quail	American Crow
Western Grebe	Common Loon	White Pelican
Barn Swallow	Great Blue Heron	Downy Woodpecker
Western Kingbird	Ring-necked Pheasant	American Kestrel
Pine Siskin	Rock Pigeon	Bald Eagle
Ring-billed Gull	Song Sparrow	American Coot
Black-capped Chickadee	Spotted Towhee	American Robin
N. Rough-Winged Swallow	Tree Swallow	Meadow Lark
White-crowned Sparrow	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Northern Flicker	Eared Grebe
European Starling	Wood Duck	Mourning Dove
American Goldfinch	Osprey	Common Merganser

Looking back; looking forward...

When the draft CCP came out we found that we were suddenly aware of people who were not engaged in the Refuge and what it does and is about. By building these bridges between organizations, businesses and the community, we become stronger and have a broader support base. You make the difference and I encourage you to continue to invite your personal friends and family members to join our organization and I encourage you to continue to reach out to the community so that they value the Refuge as much as we do.

With warmest wishes



Deer Flat NWR - CCP Update

The Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan is currently being reviewed, edited, and formatted. Fish and Wildlife Service staffs at the Regional and Washington DC Office levels are currently learning about the details of the plan so they can respond to questions from the public and provide feedback prior to the plan's release. After approval to release the document is received, it will take the Refuge staff about a month to make final edits, format changes and to have the document printed. **No matter when the Draft document is released, the Refuge is still committed to providing a 60-day public comment period.** Once we have a more definite release date, we will provide that information to the public.

Jennifer Brown-Scott
Refuge Manager

THE REFUGE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME

Barbara Albiston is Deer Flat's new Administrative Support Technician. She is a native of Gooding, Idaho with time spent in California (Barstow) and Oregon (Coos Bay) while her husband, Daryl, worked for the Service's sister agency, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Barbara began her Federal service with the Department of Defense, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, in 1988, then took a hiatus for several years to raise their three children. When the Albistons returned to Boise in 1998, Barbara worked for various Idaho State agencies while she finished her Bachelor's degree in English/Technical Communication.

She restarted her Federal career in 2003 with the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Human Resources Assistant/Staff Assistant, then moved to the BLM as the Boise District Writer-Editor for four years.

Barbara is enthusiastic about her new position, and the learning opportunities it will afford her. Her five-year-old granddaughter thinks Gramma works in a "cool" place, and likes to visit as often as she can.

She enjoys gardening, reading, fishing, traveling to new places/adventures, and sitting on the patio listening to the multitudes of doves, quail, and finches serenading her in the summer at her rural Caldwell home.

Barbara also apologizes for the confusion her name causes when answering the telephone since some of the volunteers knew the previous Administrative Assistant, Barbara Locati.



*Are You an Artist?
Do You Want to Learn about Wildlife?
Are you in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th Grade?
Then come to:*

Junior Duck Stamp Art Day!



What: Create artwork for the Junior Duck Stamp art contest
Who: 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th Graders
When: January 5, 19, 26; February 16 & 23; March 2. From 1 to 5 p.m.
Where: Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center
Why: To have fun, create art and learn about Idaho waterfowl
Cost: FREE! All supplies provided.

For more information or to register contact:

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge
13751 Upper Embankment Road
Nampa, ID 83686

THE REFUGE IN PHOTOS



California Quail. Year-round residents of the Refuge.

Tundra Swans at the Lower Dam on a gray, foggy morning in November



Mourning Doves are year round residents at the refuge.



The brush snowman at the Visitor Center in early winter...sadly it. It was after the first time it blew away and it was put back together. It tried to take a swim in the lake! The second time, however, it was nowhere to be found. Just a gypsy nature.



IF YOU LIKE THE REFUGE, LIKE THE REFUGE (ON FACEBOOK!)

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge now has an official presence on Facebook. If you're on Facebook, please "like" the Refuge page (facebook.com/DeerFlatNWR). Share your Refuge experiences, find out about upcoming Refuge events, keep up with Refuge wildlife, and more. Remember...liking the Refuge will help spread information to your Facebook friends!



Killdeer, Belted Kingfisher and a view of the lake from the lower dam in late December 2012



Volunteer Opportunities ...

Hello Friends,

It was great seeing so many of you at the Dec. 11th potluck and Friends meeting. I enjoyed seeing the slide show and reflecting on all that the Friends accomplished in 2012. What a dedicated group!

Did you survive the holiday season? Sometimes it can get a little hectic! Thank goodness nature can be such a wonderful panacea against stress. I recently saw a quote by Rachel Carson that put it perfectly, ***“Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.”*** It is so wonderful to work with you, the Friends of Deer Flat, who help bring this strengthening beauty of nature closer to the lives of our neighbors, our children and our community. And we'll have many more opportunities to share it in 2013!

As we look toward a new year and a new season of volunteer activity, I decided to ask some of our volunteers, “What do you like best about volunteering at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge?” I learned a lot and their answers were great to hear. It seems that nature restores their strength too. Here are just a few highlights from my conversations with them:

“I love being out in nature, just seeing the beauty of the lake and the surrounding land. I also really enjoy working with the visitors,” said one of our terrific Visitor Center Hosts. “They’re always so friendly and nice. I often hear, ‘I’ve lived here all my life and this is the first time I’ve come to the Refuge’. We get visitors from all over the world and I’ve really enjoyed talking to them. I also like the educational aspect. I love helping kids learn about nature.”

A long-time Saturday Visitor Center Host who’s volunteered since the program started said “I enjoy the contact with the people. They aren’t always aware of what the refuge is all about. I like orienting them to what’s going on at Deer Flat, what it stands for and what they do,” She also enjoys getting acquainted with the other volunteers. I do too!

Are you ready to jump into volunteering and get your batteries charged? The Refuge always welcomes help with our **Reading at the Refuge** pre-school program on the first and third Monday of each month. You can help read or assist the little ones in making crafts. If you enjoy working with slightly older children, you could help them learn about wildlife by becoming



Little ones enjoying Reading at the Refuge

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Volunteer Opportunities (continued) ...

a group leader at our monthly **Scout Days** or our spring and fall **Discover Wildlife Journeys field-trips**. Do you like all age groups? Perhaps you'd like to become a **Saturday Visitor Center** host. If you prefer more hands-on outdoor activities, watch your email boxes to sign up for **Wood Duck Box** surveying and repairing in late February and early March. Finally, if you've only got a few minutes to spare you could always help us deliver "**Wild About Life**" **lecture posters and flyers** while you're traveling around town to local libraries, colleges, coffee shops, restaurants, etc. Feel free to stop by any time to grab some posters or small flyers to distribute.

If any of these opportunities sound good to you, or you would like to learn more about other volunteer positions and events, please feel free to let me know. You can contact me at 467-9278 or at heidi_fencik@fws.gov.

Have a wonderful new year, Friends, and take care!

Heidi Fencik,
Volunteer Coordinator



Addison Mohler, staff biologist, discusses the deer survey that was recently conducted at the refuge.

2012 ANNUAL REFUGE REPORT NOW ONLINE

Protecting America's Wildlife, NWRA's 2012 Annual Report, highlights accomplishments from the last fiscal year. From our Beyond the Boundaries program which focuses on landscape based conservation efforts to creating a new capacity building tool for Friends to advocacy in Washington, DC, NWRA is here to support America's wildlife and wild places through the National Wildlife Refuge System. Cut and paste the following link to your web browser for a copy of the annual report.

http://refugeassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/NWRA-Annual-Report-2012_web_FINAL.pdf

Coalition Voices Concern about Sending America's Wildlife Refuges off the Fiscal Cliff

Hanging over the celebrations of Thanksgiving this year is the threat of severe funding cuts from the fast approaching Fiscal Cliff. The National Wildlife Refuge System – the largest system of lands and waters protected for wildlife – faces a 10-20% cut to current funding. Such a cut would total approximately \$50 – \$100 million, but the overall economic impact would be much more. A report released today by the NWRA-Chaired, Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE), a diverse coalition of sporting, conservation and scientific organizations representing 15 million Americans, warns that unless Congress abandons the automatic Sequestration cuts scheduled to occur in January, the Refuge System could be forced to close refuges and eliminate popular recreational opportunities which many communities depend upon as economic drivers.

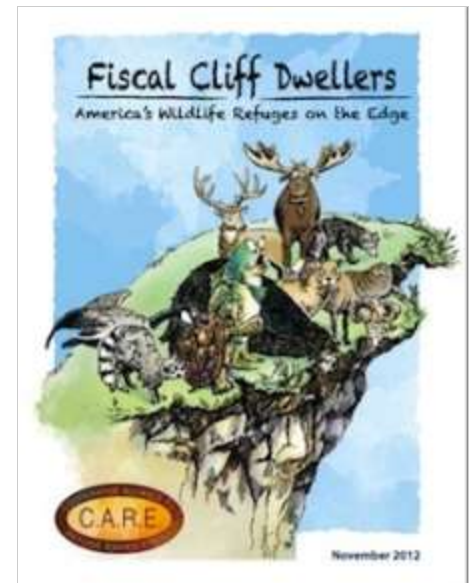
The report, *Fiscal Cliff Dwellers: America's Wildlife Refuges on the Edge*, highlights the top 10 impacts to the National Wildlife Refuge System should funding cuts of this magnitude be implemented.

1. Closed refuges and visitor centers
2. Loss of hunting and fishing opportunities
3. Volunteers turned away
4. Lost revenue to local economies
5. Increased poaching, vandalism and drug smuggling
6. Lost opportunities for birding and wildlife watching
7. Spread of invasive species
8. Halted habitat restoration and fire management
9. Delayed response to natural disaster devastation
10. Terminating a newly initiated inventory and monitoring program.

"The 560 national wildlife refuges that make up the 150-million-acre Refuge System generate more than \$4.2 billion annually for local economies and create nearly 35,000 U.S. jobs annually," says David Houghton, President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association and Chair of the CARE coalition. "Refuges are critical to the health of human communities and to the vitality of local economies, and this is no time to cripple a critical federal program that provides such an impressive return on investment."

National wildlife refuges attract nearly 45 million visitors each year and can be found in every U.S. state and territory, and are within an hour's drive of every metropolitan city in the nation. Activities including wildlife-watching, hunt-ing, fishing, photography, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, and environmental education programs may be curtailed if America's refuges go over the Fiscal Cliff.

(information sourced from National Wildlife Refuge Association website)



Should sequestration go into effect, the Refuge System may be forced to absorb a \$50-\$100 million cut.



2013 Membership Application

Please fill out this page and return with a check payable to:

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge
13751 Upper Embankment Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Email address (please include email address if you have one – this is our primary means of communicating with Friends members)



Goose Eggs & Golf Ball

Annual Membership Categories:

___ Owl (Senior & Student)	\$10
___ Deer (Individual)	\$15
___ Fox (Family)	\$25
___ Osprey	\$50
___ Eagle	\$100
___ Goldeneye	\$500

TOTAL

All contributions are tax deductible.

Friends Activities

Please Mark the Activities that Interest you:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat enhancement | <input type="checkbox"/> Public relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staffing the bookstore | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeting Refuge visitors | <input type="checkbox"/> Lobby on behalf of the Refuge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping organize an event | <input type="checkbox"/> Be an officer in Friends group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Litter pickup | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weed eradication | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education events | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |



FRIENDS OF DEER
FLAT WILDLIFE
REFUGE

13751 Upper Embankment
Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

Executive Board:

President - Vacant

Vice President - Vacant

*Secretary - Genevieve
Johansen (467-7515)*

*Treasurer - Bob
Christensen (454-2518)*

Newsletter -

We are on the web at:
[www.fws.gov/deerflat/
friends.htm](http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/friends.htm)

To preserves and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

The Grebe is published four times a year — look for the next issue in Spring 2013

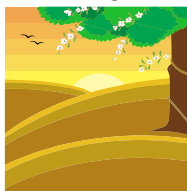
Lecture Series

JANUARY

Landscape Photography Tips

Speaker: Mike Shipman
of Blue Planet Photogra-
phy

Mike will
share some
tips to im-
prove land-
scape and nature photos,
offer equipment sugges-
tions, and profile some
local and regional areas
worthy of a photo excur-
sion.



FEBRUARY

Snake River History and Artifacts

Speaker: Brian Wallace,
Archaeologist, URS Corpo-
ration

Archaeologist for the URS
Corporation offers a picture
into the past by looking at
the stories, features, and
artifacts left behind by the
inhabitants of the Snake
River Valley

MARCH

Native Landscaping

Speaker: Ann Debolt,
Idaho Botanical Garden

Have you been wondering
how to make your garden
easier to manage. Come
and learn what native
species will thrive in your
Treasure Valley.

